



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE **INDEPENDENCE, KC FELONS SENTENCED FOR FIREARMS**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man and a Kansas City, Mo., man were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings, Graves said, are a result of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Billie C. Mullen**, 28, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to seven years and eight months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On Feb. 24, 2005, **Mullen** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Mullen** admitted that he was in possession of a Heritage Manufacturing 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Dec. 26, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Mullen** has two criminal felony convictions for stealing that occurred in 1996 and 1997.

Mullen was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 11, 2005.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Garland W. Farnsworth**, 64, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to one year and six months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On March 23, 2005, **Farnsworth** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Farnsworth** admitted that he was in possession of a Taurus .357-caliber revolver on May 23, 2000. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Farnsworth** has a 1963 criminal felony conviction for attempted robbery with firearms.

Farnsworth was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 4, 2004.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow